

Action Lines

Brandon Gate concerns

I have a concern with the Brandon Gate. It seems that people in the right lane regularly go straight instead of turning. I believe one day someone is going to be hit and I hope it will not be me.

During peak morning hours between 6:30 and 8:30 a.m., the security police open both incoming lanes at the gate to relieve congested traffic on the A1065.

The right lane at the roundabout, not at the gate, is for a right hand turn towards Douglas Avenue only. If a driver entering the base gate in the right lane desires to go

straight, two safe, legal options are:

□ After stopping for the identification check, signal intentions and carefully merge into the left lane prior to entering the roundabout.

□ Stay in the right lane, signal right, keep to the right in the roundabout, and continue all the way around. This final option should only be used as a last resort and cautiously.

Tax-free gas worries

I have a suggestion. Why couldn't we have used the base vehicle pass, 3rd Air Force Form 26, as the authorization to obtain tax-

free gas? I know a lot of vehicle passes are issued to people who are not authorized duty free gas, but we could have done something simple like stamp the reverse with "GAS" or "DUTY FREE GAS." This would insure tighter controls on vehicles authorized duty free gas, because the card would be turned in upon PCS, sale or disposal of the vehicle. It would also mean the card would stay with the car, rather than the person, eliminating the need to issue multiple cards to a family, i.e. military member and spouse.

The British government wanted a document that clearly identified the individual as an authorized purchaser of tax-free gas. The vehicle registration card is registered in the sponsor's name only and the registration card does not fill the require-

ment of clearly identifying all authorized purchasers by name. The "gas ID cards" were the simplest solution that filled all the requirements.

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call Ext. 2324, fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action_Line), distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number and full APO mailing address. Names will be kept confidential.



48th Fighter Wing commander

Our secret to success ... people

Colonel teaches about kindness

I'm writing this letter to share with you an act of kindness I witnessed from a member of your medical team.

Feb. 24, my 6-year-old son, Bryan, had to have his blood drawn for medical tests. He was extremely upset about this. We were in the hallway near the lab where I was attempting to calm Bryan down. He was hysterically crying when Col. William Michels walked by.

Michels approached us and asked if there

was anything he could do. I told him the situation and he began explaining to Bryan what would be done to draw his blood. He told Bryan that if he kept real still, it wouldn't hurt much and would only take about 10 seconds.

Even after this, Bryan was still very frightened. Michels then offered to have his own blood drawn so that Bryan could watch and see that it didn't hurt much at all. Bryan seemed to calm down a bit after that suggestion.

Michels accompanied us to the lab and explained to the technicians the situation. He was so friendly and tried so hard to comfort Bryan. The technician drew Michels' blood, explaining to Bryan exactly what she was doing. After she was done, she gave Michels a sticker and he gave it to Bryan. He told Bryan that when it was all over, the technician would give him another. Michels stood right beside Bryan the whole time, helping me keep him still.

When it was all done, he told Bryan how brave he was.

This kind of thing is very hard for me. My husband is usually the one to take care of situations such as this one. It's hard seeing your children so afraid and in pain.

With my husband on a temporary tour of duty, I was left to take care of this on my own. I don't think we would have been able to get through this without the help and kindness of Michels. He went far beyond the call of duty. Having your blood drawn is not a big deal to an adult. But to a 6-year-old boby whose daddy is away in Turkey, it's a nightmare!

Michels was so sincere and caring. Something that could have been a very bad memory for Bryan turned out to be a very valuable experience. Not only did he learn that having blood drawn isn't all that bad, but he also learned what a true act of kindness is.

I would like to thank Michels for everything he did for my son. Most of all, I would like to thank him for being an example to us all!

Evelyn Sealey

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<http://www.lakenheath.af.mil/jet48.htm>

On the cover

Photo by SrA. Grace Hunt

Carla Betts serves a member of the Lakenheath Village Over 60s Club during a Christmas party sponsored by the enlisted spouses club. For details about their bazaar, see page 8.

MDG commander achieves much during his command

The 48th Fighter Wing says goodbye to Col. Paul Christianson, who is moving on to become the commander of the 377th Medical Group at Kirkland AFB, N.M.

"While he was here, he contributed to the wing's mission in innumerable ways, providing inspirational leadership and energetic concern towards the 48th Medical Group," said Col. Doug Richardson, wing commander.

Christianson achieved great results on the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. The 97 percent score was the highest ever for RAF Laken-

heath and a 15 percent improvement over the last evaluation. He was also instrumental in the flawless deployment of the air transportable hospital to Zagreb, Croatia for combat and peacekeeping operations in Bosnia.

"Under his guidance, the group was not only strengthened internally, but also achieved a new level of professionalism and spirit," Richardson said. "We wish him luck."

